The work of Phase-ll with a length of 1.525 Km. is likely to be completed by December, 2001. Feasibility studies for construction of remaining two Phases (III and IV) under Build-Operate and Transfer (B.O.T.) scheme are in progress. It is too early to indicate the likely date of completion of Phases III and IV.

Funds for flood affected Highways in West Bengal

2098. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY:

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent by Government on maintenance of National Highways in West Bengal during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether any special fund was allotted for the flood-affected highways during the above period;

(c) if not, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) The year-wise amount spent by the Central Government on the National Highways in West Bengal during the last three years are given below:

Year	*Amount (Rs. in Crores)* **I**		
	Maintenance	*Development*	*Total*
1998-1999	39.93	121.46	161.39
1999-2000	44.83	144.46	189.29
2000-2001	65.40	198.77	264.17

(b) to (d) The year-wise allocations for West Bengal for Flood Damage Repair (FDR) during the last three years are given below:

Year	Amount (Rs. in crores)
1998-1999	9.00
1999-2000	10.00
2000-2001	16.00

Investments in Road Highway Projects

2099. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey conducted by Government on Monitoring Indian Economy, has revealed that Road Highway Projects are attracting more money than investments in telecom related infrastructure;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether most of the States are not able to invest sufficient money on development of roads;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to attract more investment in these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) Presumably the Hon'ble Member has private investment in mind. It may be stated that in National Highway sector, an investment of Rs. 1831 crore is committed upto June, 2001. This is much less than the investment made in the telecom sector.

(c) to (e) Development of roads other than National Highways is the responsibility of the respective State Governments. However, after the establishment of the Central Road Fund, the Central Government is providing assistance to State Governments of the